



Durham

Environmental Affairs Board

M I N U T E S

June 28, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Committee Room
Second Floor, City Hall

Members Present: Will Anderson, Robert Rosenthal, Rochelle Araujo, Sharon Beard, Rick Crume, Tim Dodge, Dock Terrell, and Bill Harnett

Members Absent: Excused - Matt Greenwolfe and Kathi Beratan

Staff Present: Robert Brown, Glen Whistler, Doug Vaughan, Vicki Westbrook, and Kathleen Snyder

Guests Present: N/A

Approved Minutes

Call to Order/Minutes

Chairman Sharon Beard called meeting to order. The May 2005 meeting minutes were approved 7-0.

Topics for Discussion

- 1. Officer Elections.** The Board elected the following officers 8-0: Sharon Beard as Chair, Tim Dodge as Vice Chair, and Will Anderson as Secretary
- 2. Air Quality Initiatives Report Status.** Ellen Reckhow asked EAB to present its Air Quality Initiatives Report to the Board of County Commissioners on August 1, 2005 at the work session which is scheduled from 9:30 to 11:00am. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes. Ms. Beard agreed to introduce report and Bill Harnett agreed to present the report. Ms. Beard noted importance of making the presentation in an "executive summary" format so that the main points are emphasized. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting. County Engineer Glen Whistler noted that the County is exploring the use of different types of alternative fuel vehicles. There is no additional news on the air quality initiatives follow-up.
- 3. Greenhouse Gas Action Plan.** The Durham Initiatives for Renewable Energy Community Taskforce (DIRECT) representatives met with Felix Nwoko and Rick Crume to learn more about the reasons for updating the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. The DIRECT representatives were convinced to support expending resources to update the plan. Mr. Nwoko is waiting on the County to approve the budget (City already has) and

then he will reconvene the selection committee to pick the consultant, at which time the working group will begin to meet.

- 4. Results Based Accountability Status.** A draft of the environmental working group's report should be made available on the internet for members' review and comment via email. Mr. Dodge is working on the project. Ms. Beard asked how data collection would occur under implementation of the items in the RBA report and how the Board would be involved. Ms. Westbrook said all RBA reports would be consolidated in final form for publication in September 2005.
- 5. Review of Citizen Letter.** Janet Kennell wrote the Board expressing concern over contamination of air and water by the old South Chem facility. The Board discussed how one should respond to suspected contamination and agreed that one should call 911, which then could notify emergency management. The state has jurisdiction over air quality issues, not local governments. Doug Vaughn noted that the state would generally not respond to isolated incidents every 8 or 10 years. The City Stormwater Division sporadically cleans streams on a complaint basis, but has requested special legislation to begin a stream cleaning program. Mr. Dodge agreed to seek out the old City or County reports pertaining to the spills in the past. Ms. Beard agreed to respond to Ms. Kennell to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to let her know that the Board is investigating her questions. Rochelle Araujo noted that the water quality records from downstream sampling should indicate problems from the spills if any existed.
- 6. Public Outreach.** Ms. Snyder said it is time for the Board to revisit its public outreach function for which there is \$1,000 in the budget. Ms. Beard brought up the possibility of a newsletter. Ms. Snyder suggested looking at the certain functions of the EAB set forth in the Comprehensive Plan or devising a "green" award similar to the Appearance Commission award. Vicki Westbrook said the Board could put a flier in the water bills and cheaply reach 56,000 customers. The City is going to have a cable television station. Dock Terrell agreed to lead an outreach effort, and Ms. Beard agreed to work on that initiative as well. Ms. Beard wants the Board to come up with 3 to 4 outreach ideas, first concentrating on air quality. Ms. Beard noted that this outreach effort should be a partnership with similarly interested groups.
- 7. Comprehensive Plan Tasks.** The Comprehensive Plan is now formally adopted. Ms. Snyder distributed a list of the EAB's functions as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. Dock Terrell noted the need to update the environmental indicators report. Ms. Araujo said that the Comprehensive Plan should lead to the development of best practices guidelines (e.g. stormwater).

Announcements

Ms. Snyder said Triangle Clean Cities and Wake Tech are having a niche market event on September 21, 2005 focused on transportation alternatives. Ms. Snyder wants Tobin Freid of Triangle Clean Cities to come and speak to the Board. Ms. Snyder said that the Upper Neuse Basin Association is working on a Falls Lake initiative with land trusts to protect land around the lake, and has been working on development of the Falls Lake nutrient management plan. Ms. Beard asked Ms. Araujo to look at the legislation related to the water quality in the lakes. Ms.

Westbrook reported that the City is neutral on Senate Bill 981. There is still a concern that the science behind the legislation could lead to adverse affects on water quality by encouraging toxic algal growth. The City does not want to be required to spend money to meet standards that may be met with upgrades that are being made and are already budgeted.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:41 p.m. upon an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Will Anderson, Secretary